

Fiscal Flyer

CFMA-Issue 1

September 2004

MAKING YOUR LUNCH RESERVATIONS

Your **lunch reservations** should be made using the Internet. Visit the CFMA luncheons web page (see link below) and click on the "Place Setting." You can register each month or sign up for all the lunches in one visit. Please register by 12 PM on the Wednesday before the lunch. If you need to cancel after you register, please email Dottie Relaford before noon on the Wednesday before the lunch. dottie.relaford@state.co.us.
<http://www.state.co.us/cfma/Luncheons/lunch.htm>



September Luncheon

Place: Beef Palace – Serving Carved Roast Beef & Chicken

Time: September 2, 2004 11:45am -1:30pm

SPEAKER: "TIM SMITH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS"

President's Corner By Roger A. Cusworth

I finally know what it is like working in the trenches meeting all those deadlines imposed by the State Controller's Office. For the most part, I cannot complain and since I worked there, I know their side of the story. However, there is one part of the process I have to comment on: What is up with those Inter/Intra Fund AR/AP Confirmation Forms? I know the SCO has to balance those things out, but there has to be a better way. I lost count on the number of times the same confirmation form was shuffled around. With all the bright minds we have in this State, we have to help the SCO come up with a better way.

Anyway, it is the start of another year of activities for CFMA. The Board is hard at work planning a full range of events during the coming months. In order to enjoy all these events, you must be a member. The membership drives kicks off this month. JoAnn Vondracek is serving as the membership chair again this year. Please take a moment and send in your application and your check. Join by October 15 and you get a \$5 discount. Also, don't forget the Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund when you are making out that check. Application forms are included in the newsletter e-mail and will also be available at the September and October luncheons.

As you will read in this newsletter, the Fall Conference date is set and the agenda is pretty much finalized. We are excited to have David Bean back from GASB. He has promised us an exciting four hours of GASB updates. In addition, here is your opportunity to get that ethics training out of the way for the next two years.

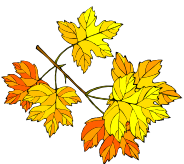
Mike Willihnganz, our lunch program chairperson, is once again lining up an excellent variety of speakers. He does have some available slots, so if you know of a good speaker, please get the necessary information to Mike. We will feature our scholarship winners at our September lunch. I am sure they would like to meet you and thank you personally for awarding them a coveted CFMA scholarship.

Also on the lunch program topic, the Board has again decided to offer the **Buy 3 Get 1 Free Program**. We will also continue the very popular lunch give-away program. The lunch registration process is still through the internet. There is one change in that process however. Mary Pierce just never liked the first name registration process, so now you have to enter your first and last name in separate fields and she will check you based on your last name and not your first name. Another of my great ideas has been tossed aside.

I look forward to working with the Board and each of you over the next year to ensure CFMA delivers the high quality events you have come to expect. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any of your questions or concerns.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Corner
- 2 Bean Counter's Underground Press
- 3 Scholarship - Fall Educational Conference
- 4 Officers - Free Lunch



The Bean Counter's Underground Press

By Alan Boisvert

There has been a lot of press lately about PERA's future fiscal problems known as the actuarial unfunded liability. This is the difference between what PERA's actuaries estimate their liabilities are for all the people currently in the system versus what their assets are, or will be, when they need to pay the benefits to those people. If the actuaries are right, and given that nothing else changes, PERA is short of being fully funded and getting shorter all the time.

Several proposals have been pushed forward by a lot of in the box thinkers. These range from increasing contributions, which will increase future assets; to reducing benefits, which will reduce future liabilities. Neither is currently practical because, who's got money to give more to the pension fund and who wants their benefits cut.

I say the real culprit in PERA's problems is that people just live too darn long. Cut the life expectancy and you cut the liabilities. Cut the liabilities and you don't need as much additional funding. I'll bet if you just knock a few years off of everyone's life span, PERA's problems would go totally away. Now that is thinking outside the box.

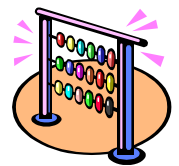
My office alone was able to come up with quite a few innovative programs that PERA could fund that would be cost beneficial to the fund in the long run. For example, PERA could have Krispy Kreme donuts delivered to every office and school once or twice a week. That would knock at least 6 months off the average employee's life span and that alone would save billions. Heck, just buy the whole company and get the donuts at cost.

One person suggested free skydiving lessons, given that his life insurance did not cover skydiving, it must be high risk. Most of us thought that pushing a bunch of octogenarians out of a plane at 15,000 feet might be going too far, but then the elder President Bush did it, so why wouldn't others take it up. Again, PERA could buy their own plane and get discounts on chute packing by outsourcing that portion of the program.

Another person suggested that the State reduce its wellness program so employees would stop exercising. Then we remembered that there wasn't a wellness program. So our suggestion to PERA is don't start a wellness program, and don't worry, the State isn't going to either.

Other suggestions included PERA providing discount motorcycle rentals to retirees, free golf lessons during thunderstorms, and free helicopter skiing to anyone over 75, all of them excellent suggestions.

I used to recommend to everyone that they try to beat the actuary by outliving his/her life projections. However, I've seen now what a problem that creates for the pension fund. So, I've got a new suggestion. Live like there is no tomorrow, nothing ventured, nothing gained, go for the gusto, you only live once, live life on the edge, attack, attack, attack, and seize the day. Whatever. You get the point. Life is too long to have to live the whole thing, and pension funds just don't go as far as they use to. Change your thinking now, buy a motorcycle, and think short-term. The rest of us will thank you.



"The opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Colorado Fiscal Managers Association, its Board, or its members."

Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship Awards

Tim Smith Memorial Scholarships in the amount of either \$750 or \$1,500 are to be given to six very deserving students this year. We hope most of the students will be able to attend the September luncheon and members will be able to meet them and understand why they are at the top of the selection committee's list. A big THANK YOU goes out to the selection committee of **Brent Voge, JoAnn Vondracek, Don Rieck, Susan Riehl** and the Committee Chair **Carmen Modglin** for their hard work in evaluating and selecting these students.

- **Deborah Davis**, Junior at Colorado State University - Pueblo, Majoring in Accounting
- **James Lee Frantz**, Senior at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Majoring in Business Administration - Finance
- **Sara McKenzie-Vaccariello**, Senior at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Majoring in Business Finance
- **Kathleen Ellen Melgares**, Junior at Adams State College, Alamosa, Majoring in Accounting
- **Jacob R. Newman**, Sophomore at University of Colorado at Boulder, Majoring in Accounting
- **Deborah K. Schwartz**, Sophomore at Community College of Aurora, Majoring in Accounting

CFMA wishes these students and all students who applied for the Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship success in their education and career goals. A significant portion of the funding for these scholarships comes from CFMA's annual bowl-athon. Please be sure to either register a team or sponsor a bowler next spring so that CFMA can continue to offer scholarships to deserving Colorado college students.



2004 CFMA Fall Educational Conference

October 26, 2004

Arvada Center for the Performing Arts

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, **October 26** for the CFMA Fall Educational Seminar!

The seminar will be held at the **Arvada Center** and is in the final planning stages. The general session will include **David Bean** from GASB presenting updates in his unique energetic and informative style.

Once again, the general seminar will be provided at no cost to CFMA members, with an optional Ethics session at a reasonable cost. Information and registration will be available on the CFMA website within the next two weeks.

Other topics are being finalized – please contact conference committee chair **Mindy Densmore** at mdensmore@spike.dor.state.co.us if you have topic suggestions or would like to volunteer.



2003 - 2004

OFFICERS

President	Roger A. Cusworth
Vice President	Mindy Densmore
Secretary	Lavynia Washington
Treasurer	Mary Pearce

E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE
CHAIRS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CFMA WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.STATE.CO.US/CFMA/HOME.HTM](http://www.state.co.us/cfma/home.htm)

*"Attend three CFMA luncheons this year and
get the 4th lunch free!" – CFMA Board*

*CFMA's very popular buy three get one free
lunch program is in place for the upcoming
year. If you attend all eight lunches this year,
CFMA will pay for two of them. To assist in the
record Keeping process, please register each
month using the Web site registration and be
sure to use the same name. For example,
Roger Cusworth and Roger A Cusworth are
treated as two people in the database used to
track free lunches. You also need to be sure
you check in each time you attend a luncheon.*

*In case you are wondering, your attendance
from last year does not carry over to this year.*



*"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in
which you really stop to look fear in the face...You must do the thing
you cannot do."*

~ Eleanor Roosevelt